

Guiding Principles for Effective Ministry

By Bob Young

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I graduated from Oklahoma Christian College in April, 1970 and began my first full-time preaching assignment in Dierks, Arkansas in May of that year. After 40 years of full-time ministry, I recently sat down to list the guiding principles that I have found most important in effective ministry. It is only coincidental that the list contains 10 items. They are not in any particular order. I share them here in the hope they may be helpful to those who are currently in ministry, and especially to those who are just embarking on the ministry journey.

BE SPIRITUAL. Do not neglect your personal spiritual life. Never stop growing.

BE PURPOSEFUL. Remember that your number one task is to be a mediator of the presence and word of God. Do not neglect your primary priorities. You must teach and preach as if lives depended on it—they do.

BE ATTRACTIVE. Stay fresh; do not become stale in your own personal interaction with God, his word, his people, and his world. Be a student.

BE AVAILABLE. Be the minister for “everyone” you can possibly touch—both within the congregation and without. Especially look for connections with the fringe members of the church, and with those outside the congregation. Look for opportunities to connect with as many people as you can
Carefully avoid favorites in the congregation—spend time with everyone

BE AN EXAMPLE. Model servant leadership—no task too low for you, help with everything.

BE POSITIVE. Push everything—do not be an obstacle, always be a helper.

BE PLEASANT. Be pleasant and smile—do not have “bad days”.

BE STUDIOUS. Learn as much as you can about as many different things as you can. Be a life-long learner—never stop learning. Become an educated person.

BE AN ENCOURAGER. Encourage and facilitate the ministry of others

BE REAL. Don’t take yourself too seriously—learn to laugh